Community Contact

Manitoba Aboriginal and Northern Affairs

September 2006

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As part of their Fire Fighter Level 1 training program, Cormorant Fire Department members learn about fire behavior and interior fire attack operations at The Pas Fire Department Training Centre in January, 2006.

Northern Links Recreation Edition INSIDE

Manitoba

This Issue

Our theme for this issue is protective services. We begin by describing how Manitoba Aboriginal and Northern Affairs (ANA) is moving to fulfill fire fighting training objectives resulting from hazard analysis and risk assessment research over the past few years. Office of the Fire Commissioner (OFC) operations manager Dave Schafer has provided us with an update on where programs have taken place so far and how successful they have been.

Related to the protective services theme, we've provided information about ANA progress responding to fire truck and constable vehicle replacement recommendations from the 2005 fire and constable program reviews. Find out where new vehicles have been delivered and where they can be expected in Northern Affairs communities.

Also in this issue Jean Champagne, northern emergency officer for the Manitoba Emergency Measures Organization (EMO) provides a discussion about community emergency planning. If you ever wondered how to become involved in preparing a community emergency plan, the basics are here. There's also contact information that will help when you need more detailed answers from EMO or ANA.

There are few better ways for community employees to stay knowledgeable than to attend training opportunities, seminars and conferences. This issue features a schedule that lists several opportunities to learn about fire protection, emergency services and disaster management.

Finally, workplace safety and health knowledge is a requirement for ANA community employees. This issue takes a look at how ANA is making sure employees and managers in our northern communities meet that expectation over the next few years.

Included with this issue of Community Contact is our second Northern Links recreation edition with more about leisure-related aspects of ANA community life.

Enjoy this issue and don't forget to contact us with your comments, article suggestions or to request additional copies.

FIRE

In July 2005, Manitoba Aboriginal and Northern Affairs (ANA) and the Office of the Fire Commissioner (OFC) began a Fire Fighter Training Initiative. The first objective is to bring quality community-based fire fighting training directly to communities that have had difficulty in the past finding adequate funding or qualified instructors. The initiative is a direct result of recent hazard analysis and risk assessment that identified the need for greater emphasis on fire fighting training in ANA communities.

The OFC has committed to provide a full-time instructor to co-ordinate training at the community level and support training program delivery and evaluation. Other OFC staff and local contract instructors also help with the program.

Ken Giersch of The Pas, Manitoba was hired in May 2005 as the lead instructor for the training initiative. Ken is a 10-year veteran of The Pas Fire Department, and was an instructor and captain in The Pas prior to joining the OFC team. Ken spent his first six weeks with the OFC in Brandon working with the fire college instructors and the Public Fire and Paramedic Program to get to know the program and the people involved. Ken has a permanent office in The Pas and spends much of his time on the road instructing in the communities.

ANA has committed to provide the necessary operating funds to support course delivery and provide places where the course can be held. ANA and OFC have provided fire-fighting equipment needed for training. The success of the initiative relies on co-operation from the communities and the determination of their volunteer fire fighters.

The first objective is to bring quality community-based fire fighting training directly to communities...

Program delivery takes seven full weeks and includes the complete Fire Fighter Level 1 — NFPA 1001, and Hazmat Awareness - NFPA 472 courses. Participating communities and candidates are proud of their accomplishments. They are commended for the hard work and effort they put forward.

2008-04062/

FIGHTING
Training Continues

Thicket Portage Community Council Fire Department braves the cold while training with ladders during their recently completed Level 1 Fire Fighter training session.

FIRE FIGHTING TRAINING CONTINUES *(continued)*

Fire Fighting Training Update

In 2005, the first year of this training initiative, three successful programs were delivered in the communities of Barrows, Cormorant and the combined communities of Camperville/Duck bay. In 2006, the communities of Thicket Portage, Moose Lake and Pelican Rapids have also successfully completed the fire fighting training. Twenty-seven candidates have obtained their Fire Fighter Level 1 certification.

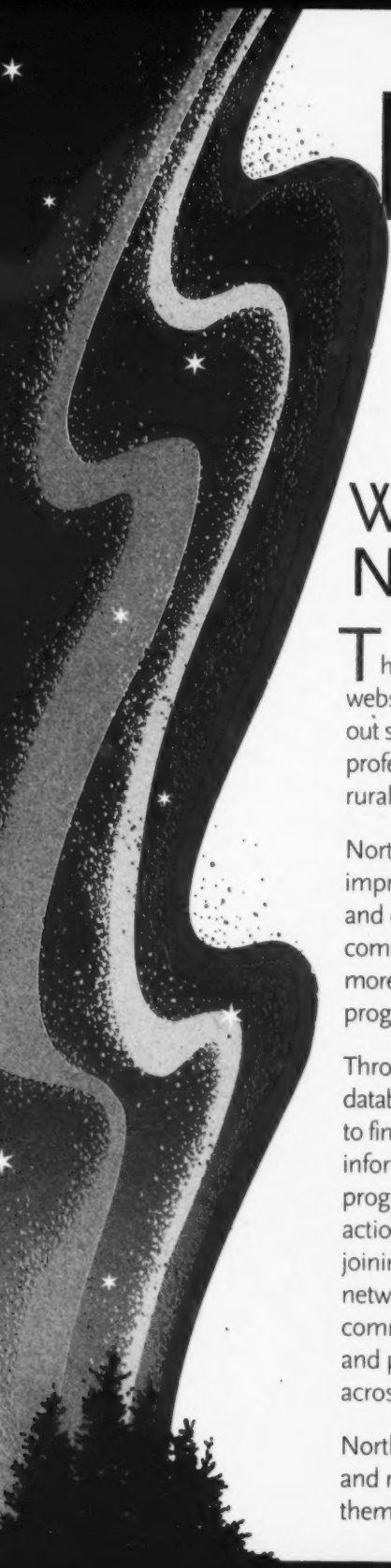
The first 2006 training course took place in Thicket Portage during the months of February and March. Access to the community is only available by winter road, rail or air. Winter weather conditions presented the instructors and candidates with some challenges, but they made the best of a difficult situation.

The next two courses were held in Moose Lake during April/May and Pelican Rapids during June/July. Both communities are members of the Clearwater Training District and this was the first opportunity for them to host a full Fire Fighter Level 1 — NFPA 1001 training program in many years.

Thanks to all contract instructors who assisted in delivering these courses, and to the members of The Pas Fire Department and Thompson Fire and Emergency Services for assistance and support. Congratulations to all the candidates for the hard work and dedication demonstrated during a challenging 7 weeks of continuous training. Keep up the good work. Your efforts have improved fire service capabilities in ANA communities across Manitoba.

—contributed by Dave Schafer, Manager, Operations - OFC

Barrows Fire Department members perform vertical ventilation operations as part of their Fire Fighter Level 1 training program in October, 2005.



Northern Links

Recreation Edition
Manitoba Aboriginal and Northern Affairs

What is the NorthernLinks.org initiative?

The Northern Links initiative and website is a new endeavour to reach out specifically to sport and recreation professionals in Canada's Aboriginal, rural and remote communities.

Northern Links provides and improves peer networking, support and communication for all community leaders looking to create more culturally relevant and engaging programming.

Through our searchable online database, community leaders are able to find a wide variety of programming information — policies, forms, program models and information, action kits, research and more. By joining our listserv, they can also network and discuss their community's successes, challenges and progress with their colleagues across Canada.

Northern Links is a place for sport and recreation leaders to help themselves and each other.

How do we access this information?

Knowledge Bank – your community's source for resources. Looking to set up a new program or address issues? Search through the database for policies, program outlines, forms, guides and much more.

Listserv – stay connected and learn about best practices. Planning an event and want new creative ideas from other recreation people who have had success? The listserv lets you ask questions and advice from other recreation people from across the country.

Signing up is easy and free. Visit **www.NorthernLinks.org**, click Join the Listserv and enter your e-mail address, or e-mail **info@NorthernLinks.org**.

The Lifestyle Information Network (LIN) manages northern Links.org. With over 10 years of success, LIN is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting healthy lifestyle awareness throughout Canada and the home of the National Recreation Database.

All contents and resources on **www.NorthernLinks.org** are free and fully accessible.

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Manitoba

Under the Porcupine Succeeds

Celebration of Music and Dance

by Faron Cook

The Barrows and Area Recreation Committee and Under the Porcupine Fiddle Club held its second annual Fiddle/Guitar/Dance Camp July12-15, 2006.

This year's camp was every bit as exciting as last year's, featuring new instructors like John Arcand, one of Canada's greatest Metis fiddlers and Shamma Sabir, recognized by the Canadian Grand Masters Championships as one of the best fiddlers in Canada. Returning instructors included Clint Dutiaume and Fred Pelletier, just to name a few. Vocal instruction for up-and-coming singers was an added feature this year.

It all took place in Barrows, Manitoba on the northern fringe of Porcupine Provincial Forest. Like the inaugural event, held in July, 2005, this year's event was four days of fiddle, guitar and dance instruction in the daytime and concerts, jamming and dancing in the evenings.

The history of Under the Porcupine/Festival of Music and Dance began when Blaine Klippenstein rode into town. Blaine is well known across the north for establishing the Frontier School Division fiddle program eight years ago. It currently has 1,000 students learning to fiddle with five full time instructors. I wanted to start something new for adults so I approached Blaine. He said okay, and within a year, 15 adults were taking weekly lessons.

During one of his fiddle sessions, Blaine mentioned a fiddle camp in Northern Saskatchewan. There and then, we decided to attend the Emma Lake Fiddle Camp. It took us the rest of the year to raise the $800 per person for registration. It's a lot for a group of people from a small town. We did it, however, through raffles and social events.

When our group attended the Emma Lake Fiddle Camp, everyone was affected in a positive and profound manner. It was the result of being surrounded for five days by great music, great musicians, good people and great food in the beautiful setting of the Kenderdine Campus. The campus is built in an old growth forest on the shore of Emma Lake, Saskatchewan, about 50 kilometres northwest of Prince Albert.

Again

When we got back to Barrows it was suggested that we bring the positive energy and experience of Emma Lake to our community and hold our own music camp for adults. Our group met and started planning – it ended up taking a year. Money had to be raised, volunteers had to be found, infrastructure had to be established and built.

The committee that organized the event was very nervous about attempting such a venture, because the camp was going to require a budget of about $12,000 and full community volunteer support. It wasn't an easy task for a community of 100 or so, but Barrows rallied together and we raised $5,000 through raffles, socials, community events and a mini-festival with three days of workshops.

The first Barrows *Under the Porcupine / Celebration of Music and Dance Festival* went off perfectly. The food was great, volunteers were excellent, the concerts were absolutely amazing, and there was no doubt that this festival had a very bright future.

The main reason for the success of this festival was the local people involved. The community of Barrows is like many other northern Manitoba communities. There isn't much economic activity locally, but Barrows is a clean, functional community in a

beautiful location. There are many tours and opportunities in this area for people who want to see nature or experience a wilderness adventure and a number of community members are working hard to establish eco-tourism businesses. It is our hope that this festival will be part of bringing people to experience a well functioning and beautiful northern Manitoba community.

A large part of the success of the first and second festival has been the excellent musicians/instructors who have come to Barrows. They represent some of the best in this genre of music. Clint Dutiuame, Aboriginal Music Awards Winner, led the group. Other musicians and instructors included renowned Calgary fiddler Donna Turk, Saskatchewan Fiddle Champion JJ Guy, banjo picker and stand-up base extraordinaire Daniel Kulauk, well-known piano player Michael Bohemier and Freddy Pelletier, one of the best guitar players in Canada. All of the instructors said they would gladly come back for a second year. They believe the *Under the Porcupine Festival* will prove to be the premier fiddle/music camp in Western Canada in years to come.

For now, why not plan ahead? We invite anyone who wants to experience great music, great people, great food and the beautiful setting of the Porcupine Mountains to consider attending next summer. Early registration for the four-day Under the Porcupine Festival is $325 per person. ***We promise you won't be sorry.***

Water safety education demand continues in northern and remote Manitoba communities

During the summer of 2005, the Lifesaving Society developed and carried out a drowning prevention initiative called WaterSmart®. Instructor Ryan Leroux delivered it in six northern and remote Manitoban communities. The program was so popular and successful, it was re-established for 2006 with an additional instructor, Trevor Cross. With two instructors, the program doubled the number of communities covered during this past summer.

"Drowning takes a tragic toll in communities throughout northern Manitoba," says Leroux. "On average, 25 people drown in this province each year, nearly half of them Aboriginal people and many of them from First Nations Communities."

The Lifesaving Society began WaterSmart® to reduce the toll. WaterSmart® is an educational program tailored to the needs of northern people. The program features three courses: swimming lessons, Boat Operator Accredited Training and emergency first aid with CPR. The entire program is delivered free of charge in host communities. The only commitment required from communities is to provide room and board for the WaterSmart® instructors during their stay.

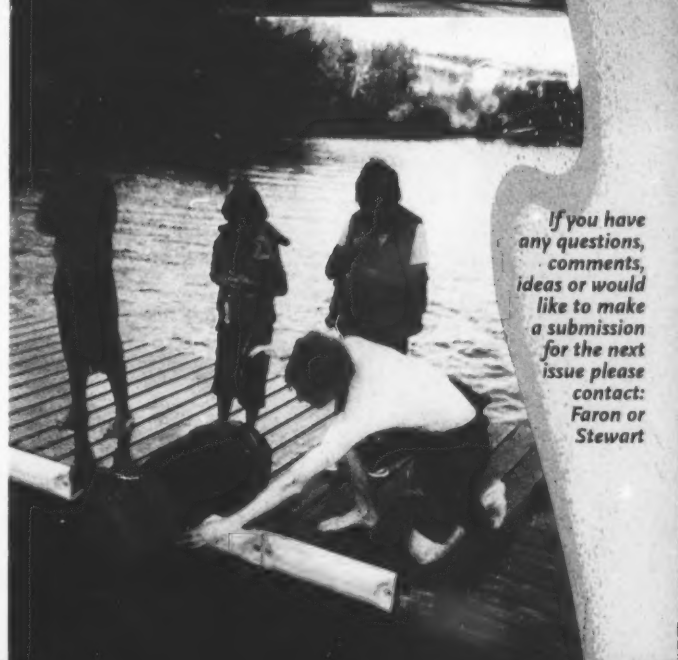
As an extra bonus, generous support from sponsors allowed the Lifesaving Society to donate 12 new lifejackets to each host community visited. Working with government and the Safer Waters Coalition, the society expects to be able to deliver hundreds more lifejackets in northern Manitoban communities over the next two years.

WaterSmart® program sponsors included:

- Manitoba Aboriginal and Northern Affairs
- Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Tourism
- Manitoba Health
- Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth
- Human Resources and Social Development Canada
- Sport Manitoba

The success of the program in each community depends on support from the community. If your community is interested, plan early and avoid disappointment.

- Ryan Leroux, WaterSmart® Instructor, Lifesaving Society – MB Branch



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Special Event Notices

Aboriginal and Northern Affairs Fire Chief's Conference 2006

Date: October 11, 2006
Location: Keystone Centre, Brandon, Manitoba

As a prelude to this year's Emergency Services Conference, Manitoba Aboriginal and Northern Affairs (ANA) will host a Fire Chief's Conference October 11, 2006. The day is open to fire chiefs or designates from ANA communities and will be held at the Keystone Centre in Brandon, Manitoba.

The ANA Fire Chief's Conference is held every second year on the day before the Manitoba Emergency Services Conference presented by the Office of the Fire Commissioner (OFC). The scheduling allows community fire departments to attend both conferences. Firefighters attending both ANA and OFC conferences can take hands-on training courses, information seminars and visit a supplier trade show.

The agenda for the ANA Fire Chief's Conference will be available to communities in September. There is no cost to attend the ANA Fire Chief's Conference. Those planning to stay and attend the OFC conference must register and pay for their attendance directly with OFC. Delegates are responsible for making their own travel and accommodation arrangements for both the ANA and OFC events.

2006 Manitoba Emergency Services Conference

Date: October 12, 13 and 14, 2006
Location: Keystone Centre, Brandon, Manitoba

This 20th annual conference will host 500 or more emergency services personnel from Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Northern Ontario. This year's keynote speaker is Sandy Davis, Director of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness for Louisiana.

There are 33 excellent seminars to choose from and a trade show with a wide range of the latest equipment and technologies on display. This is a weekend of learning and networking with emergency services personnel from many communities. To register or to receive more information, visit our website at www.firecomm.gov.mb.ca or contact us 1-888-253-1488 toll free or 204-726-6855.

2006 Disaster Management Conference

Date: November 15, 16 and 17, 2006
Location: Canad Inns, Brandon, Manitoba

This conference is designed to increase the level of emergency preparedness in Manitoba and promote disaster management planning and public awareness. Information seminars, breakout sessions, emergency planning and networking opportunities are all part of the conference.

Attendance is open to emergency preparedness planners, first responders, elected officials, safety officers, health professionals, educators, policy makers and NGO's. The registration fee is $250 per person if registered prior to October 2, 2006. A complete registration package can be obtained by visiting www.gov.mb.ca/emo/ or by calling the Manitoba Emergency Measures Organization (EMO) co-ordinator for this conference at 204-945-3922.

Managing Emergencies

Why do we need a Community Emergency Plan?

Many different types of disasters can affect people, property and natural resources. Forest fire, floods and severe weather are a yearly occurrence in Manitoba. To help deal with these events, local authorities are responsible under The Emergency Measures Act to have in place an emergency preparedness program and emergency plans to protect people and property.

Without an emergency plan, fear, confusion, disorientation, lack of resources and lack of co-ordination can complicate a natural disaster and make losses much worse. Lack of preparedness may lead to severe casualty rates, damage to property and the environment, and the possible financial collapse of an affected community. If communities are to be resilient and return quickly to pre-disaster status, adequate preparation is necessary.

Just as it is appropriate to have long-term plans for your family, your children's education, vacation and retirement, so you must have a plan for the safety of your community. You must recognize potential hazards and their possible effects on your community. Then you must develop and test contingency plans.

Hazards that may affect a community include:

- forest fires
- blizzards
- floods
- chemical spills
- water contamination
- lost persons
- pandemic influenza

An important part of any emergency plan is knowing how to minimize damage and injury. Having the ability to evacuate your community can be extremely important.

Some issues to answer regarding evacuation when developing your plans are:

- identification of evacuation routes together with alternate routes
- safe locations to gather for registration and briefing prior to departing and returning to your community before, during and after emergencies
- accountability for handicapped people and their transportation
- transportation of residents
- identification of hosting communities
- safety of staff

An **it can't happen here** attitude may be an obstacle for some communities. People may not be willing to take the time and effort to look at the potential problems. However, emergency planning is an important part of community resilience and empowerment.

Your community emergency co-ordinator, with the support of your elected officials and community groups, is required to produce plans that will meet departmental and provincial government standards. The overall objectives are the prevention of fatalities and injuries, reduction in capital damages (buildings, stock and equipment) and timely resumption of normal community operation.

Help is available from Manitoba Aboriginal and Northern Affairs (ANA) and from Manitoba Emergency Measures Organization (EMO). Seminars were held over the past few years to help co-ordinators develop emergency programs and plans. Templates are also available through your department representative. Northern Affairs communities have been asked to submit their community emergency programs this fall, 2006.

For additional information, please contact your ANA or EMO representatives:

ANA North Central Region:
Hessel Dethmers, protective services consultant 204-622-2150 or e-mail hdethmers@gov.mb.ca

ANA Northern Region:
Garry Nabess, protective services consultant 204-677-6790 or e-mail gnabess@gov.mb.ca.

Manitoba EMO:
Jean Champagne, emergency officer 204-627-8288 or e-mail jchampagne@gov.mb.ca

You may also visit the EMO website at www.manitobaemo.ca

Community Contact thanks Jean Champagne, EMO Northern Emergency Officer for preparing this article.

Workplace Safety and Health Training

On April 1, 2005, Manitoba Aboriginal and Northern Affairs (ANA) began a community workplace safety and health program called A Safe Workplace – A Workplace Safety and Health Manual for Your Community.

The major purpose of the program is to create a safe working environment by training community employees. Red River College is providing the training for community councillors, public works employees and workplace safety and health representatives in partnership with ANA.

Sessions are scheduled to accommodate the number of people requiring the training. Each session is approximately four days long and includes classroom and, in some cases, hands-on work. Sessions take place in Thompson and Winnipeg. Completion of training is planned for 2007/2008.

Training includes:

- Level 1 – Workplace Safety and Health
- Hazard Recognition and Control
- Investigating Workplace Incidents
- Personnel Protective Equipment
- Lockout/Tagout
- Fall Protection
- Trenching, Shoring and Excavation
- Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System
- First Aid
- Working Alone
- Confined Space Entry (where applicable)
- Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (where applicable)

Some responses from participants have been:

"These courses help me to see dangers that can be prevented"

"I thought I was doing things the right way until I took the training"

Some responses from the participants that attended have been:

—"These courses help me to see dangers that can be prevented"

—"I thought I was doing things the right way until I took the training"

ANA views this program as the best form of accident and injury prevention. This is a great opportunity to make yourself a valuable asset to your community. Councils will be contacted regarding training requirements, dates and locations.

ANA community public works employees learn to use a safety harness.

ANA Fire and Constable Program Highlights

Manitoba Aboriginal and Northern Affairs (ANA) has been busy this past year working with communities to fulfill recommendations made in 2005 fire and constable program reviews.

Several ANA communities have received new fire trucks this past year as part of the replacement schedule outlined in the 2005 fire program review. These communities include:

- Barrows
- Camperville
- Bissett
- Norway House
- Pine Dock

Communities scheduled to receive new fire trucks later this year include:

- Easterville
- Dallas – Red Rose
- Mallard

Communities scheduled for delivery of fire trucks during the summer of 2007 include:

- Cross Lake
- Cormorant
- Wabowden

A similar recommendation to provide police vehicles was included in the 2005 constable program review. ANA communities with a constable program will be receiving sport-utility style trucks for use as a constable vehicle. New vehicles, revised equipment and new uniform requirements represent major changes to the constable program. ANA is currently awaiting completion of necessary equipment upgrades to the constable vehicles with expectations of delivering them early this fall.

Reminder *Aboriginal Mining Workshop*

Aboriginal community representatives are invited to attend the workshop on mineral-related community economic development on Tuesday, November 21, 2006 at the Winnipeg Convention Centre.

Speakers at this event will:

- highlight local and national achievements in mining
- share expertise on developing and implementing strategies for economic growth
- promote mineral exploration and development opportunities including training, employment, business ventures and social initiatives

Please note the entire Manitoba Mining and Minerals Convention registration is complimentary for Aboriginal Mining Workshop participants. The Mining and Minerals convention takes place November 20 to 22, 2006 at the Winnipeg Convention Centre.

For more program information and registration, contact:
Manitoba Industry, Economic Development and Mines
360-1395 Ellice Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3G 3P2
1-800-223-5215 toll free or 204-945-6558
www.mineralsconvention.com/workshops

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Community Council members, community residents and departmental staff are strongly encouraged to submit feedback, comments, questions, suggestions and ideas to the editor.